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NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Security Council a communication which he has received from the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission established by the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 9 (b) (i) of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) a joint statement issued upon the conclusion of the high-level talks between the Government of Iraq and the United Nations Special Commission held in Baghdad from 24 to 26 April 1994.

Annex

Joint statement issued at the conclusion of the high-level talks held in Baghdad, from 24 to 26 April 1994

1. From 24 to 26 April 1994, a further round of high-level talks was held in Baghdad between Iraq, on the one hand, and the Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on the other. This was a continuation of a process initiated in July 1993 during the visit to Baghdad of the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission, Ambassador Rolf Ekéus, and followed by five further rounds of high-level talks held in New York and Baghdad.
Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq met the Executive Chairman and the Leader of the IAEA Action Team, Mr. Maurizio Zifferero. The delegation of Iraq included Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs; General Amer Muhammad Rashid, Director of the Military Industrialization Commission; and Dr. Riyadh Al-Qaysi, Under-Secretary in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Issues relating to the implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 687 and 715 (1991), were discussed.

2. The two sides reviewed the considerable progress made in this regard since the last round of high-level talks, held in New York on 14-19 March 1994. They noted that many actions had been undertaken in this period, including inspections to establish the baseline for, and phase in, ongoing monitoring and verification.

3. In conducting this intensive programme of inspections, the Commission and the IAEA expressed their appreciation for Iraq's expeditious and positive responses to their requests for assistance and support. This has enabled inspections to be conducted efficiently and effectively, and has contributed significantly to the establishment of ongoing monitoring and verification as called for in the Security Council resolutions. The Commission and the IAEA welcomed Iraq's commitment to continue its cooperation with them. In fulfilling resolution 715 (1991) and the plans for ongoing monitoring and verification, Iraq assured the Commission and the IAEA that it would respect the rights and privileges of the Commission and the IAEA established under the plans, and, for their part, the Commission and the IAEA reiterated their commitment to exercise these rights and privileges in a manner that respected Iraq's legitimate concerns relating to sovereignty, independence, security and dignity in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and to conduct their activities in the least intrusive manner consistent with effective monitoring and verification.

4. Both sides reiterated their commitment to continue and accelerate intensive efforts aimed at reaching their shared objective, namely, a situation where the Commission and the IAEA would be able to report to the Security Council that, in their view, Iraq had taken all the actions called for in paragraph 22 of resolution 687 (1991).